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ST. STANISLAUS
ROCK-A-CHAW

MARCH 3, 2000

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

Rocks come up big in division tournament

Point Guard Aaron Dunklin looks to pass against the Bay High Tigers in a District Contest.

By: Dawson McCall

The St. Stanislaus Rock-A-Chaw basketball team continued their dominance in Division 7-4A league play during the 2000 division tournament. The Rocks, who tallied a 13-1 regular season record within the division, put together back-to-back winning performances to claim the division championship for the 1999-'00 season. After handily beating the Hancock Hawks in the first round by a score of 72-47, the Rocks outplayed the Petal Panthers and the Picayune Maroon Tide on successive nights to claim the title.

In the semi-finals the Rocks ended the Petal Panthers' season with a 48-34 victory after trailing by a point at the half. The following night, in front of an electric crowd of over 3000 people, the Rocks downed defending champion Picayune by a margin of 51-49. After trailing by two at the half and by as much as seven in the third period, the Rocks turned up the heat on defense, forcing Picayune point guard Adrianne Payton into several key turnovers in the fourth period. After taking a one point lead at the end of the third quarter the Rock-A-Chaws relied on their tenacious defense to hold the Tide to just six points in the final period, riding the free-throw shooting of seniors Stephen Peterman and Aaron Dunklin to preserve the victory.

"We just wanted it more," was the comment of senior center Ben Ladner, who came up big for the Rocks late in the season with his inside play on defense and on the boards. "We came into this season expecting to win the division title. We felt all year long that we were the best team in the division." The Rocks sure solidified that fact, if there was any doubt about their supremacy in Division 7-4A. Over the last three years the Rocks have amassed a record of 34-8 within division play, going 25-3 for the past two of those years, and have played for the division title the past two years, coming up just short last year and bringing home the gold this year.

So, for the third time in twice as many years your St. Stanislaus Rock-A-Chaws have brought home the division crown. With All-Division honors going to Zeke Davis, J.R. "Grady" Willis, and Brandon Arcement, and Jason Santiago being named the Division 7-4A Defensive Player of the Year, the Rock-A-Chaws would like to thank ***you***, the student body, for your support throughout this season. We couldn't have done it without you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SSC VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH JAY LADNER WHO WAS AGAIN NAMED "COACH OF THE YEAR" FOR DIVISION 7-AAAA.

BROTHER PIERRE, A WELL-KNOWN FACE AT SSC, PASSED AWAY RECENTLY. HERE HE IS PICTURED AT THE SSC NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING. BROTHER PIERRE SERVED AS SSC PRESIDENT FROM 1969 TO 1975. MANY REMEMBER SEEING HIM WORKING IN THE STUDENT BOOKSTORE AND ON THE MOVE AROUND CAMPUS. HE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL OF US.

Mardi Gras: Traditions, Customs, and Facts

By Guy Van Slyke

Being located approximately an hour (driving distance) away from the great metropolis of New Orleans, most Saint Stanislaus students have probably grown accustomed to the sights and sounds of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras is a week long festival celebrated in many parts of the world, but celebrated most enthusiastically in New Orleans. Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" and of course is celebrated on that day of the week. The date can fall between February 3 and March 9 depending on the Catholic Church. Mardi Gras is always 47 days before Easter Sunday. This year Mardi Gras falls on March 7th.

Though many of us are familiar with Mardi Gras, a great number of us aren't educated about the customs and traditions behind it. Mardi Gras came to New Orleans through its French heritage in 1699. Early explorers celebrated this French holiday on the banks of the Mississippi River. Throughout the years, New Orleanians have added to the celebration by establishing organizations, which host both parades and balls. The carnival quickly became an exciting holiday for both children and adults. The official colors for Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold. These colors were chosen in 1872 by the King of Carnival, Rex. He chose these colors for the following:
-Purple represents justice
-Green stands for faith
-Gold stands for power

The Mardi Gras season begins about two weeks before Fat Tuesday. During those two weeks, parades can be viewed nightly and on weekends. Almost all businesses are closed for Lundi Gras (Fat Monday) and for Mardi Gras itself. People from all over the world come to New Orleans to enjoy this extravagant holiday.

Though New Orleans has one of the most highly publicized Mardi Gras festivals, Mardi Gras is not exclusive to this city. In Mexico, many cities have Mardi Gras festivals (called Carnivals). These Carnival celebrations vary in size, but the biggest events take place in the port cities, with the largest of all in Mazatlan. Mazatlan's Carnival is said to attract well over 300,000 people, making it the third largest such event behind Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans. Port towns such as Ensenada, La Paz, and Veracruz are also excellent places to watch Carnival festivities.

If you're looking for a festival of dancing, costumes, music, fireworks, food, drink and just being wild and crazy…then Mardi Gras is the holiday for you. People worldwide certainly know how to celebrate this holiday in style.

"Scream" takes another stab at it

By T.J. McKeough

"In a trilogy anything goes. All bets are off," says one character of movie trilogies. Yes, Scream was originally intended as a trilogy. When Scream was first made, they knew that two more would follow. This is the last one; no more will be made. If another one is made, it is known that no one involved in the making of the first two movies will sign on. It cannot be taken beyond a third movie. This final movie brings back its three main characters from the first two movies. Neve Campbell reprises her role as Sidney Prescott, the center of the Scream universe, one last time. David Arquette is once again the nice but somewhat slow, Dewey Riley. Finally, Courtney Cox returns as Gail Weathers, the story hungry reporter. The director of the first two movies, Wes Craven, returns. The movie also has a slew of new and old faces of entertainment. Jenny McCarthy and Lance Henriksen are just a couple.

Scream 3 takes place on a movie set in Hollywood. A movie called Stab 3 is being filmed. As usual, the movie starts off with the killing of a famous person. Unlike in the other two movies, this killing is not only used as a movie opener. It is also important to the movie. This movie is full of horror, comedy, and suspense. It blends supernatural horror, ghosts, with the slasher type of horror.

A good thing about the movie is that it gives closure to the fans of the other two movies. Everything is found out. There are no more secrets left. Every question that one has of the movie is finally answered. All loose ends are brought together and everything is linked together. The killer is also quite a surprise. It is someone that you would never think of, but I will not give it away. I will not spoil it for you, the viewer. I recommend going to see this movie. It was not as good as the first movie, but it was a whole lot better than the second.

Rabbit In The Moon, Remixes: Volume 2

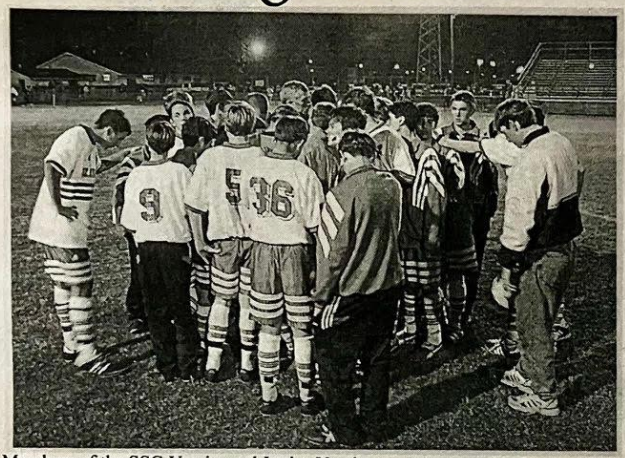
By John Sumner

From the very beginning one is swept into the currents of this CD. This is yet another great "remixes" album brought out by Rabbit In The Moon. This LP contains remixes from such groups as Smashing Pumpkins and Delirium.

Released in late 1999 this is by far the second greatest CD brought out by Rabbit In The Moon, the first of course being FLOR.I.DA, which was released in the summer of '99. With their upbeat drum n bass style of music, the CD has somewhat of a strange, peaceful feel to it as if nothing really matters, and one enters into his own world apart from the others. One feels as if the drum n bass are taken over by a feeling of serenity, and then the feel turns into progressive trance. Although there are a few songs that bring the old school feeling back in with some older sounds, these actually take the listener by surprise, and not even realizing it, the music has found yet another way to suck one into the world of electronica. This CD can be found at any decent music store around. I say this because I know the closest music store around here is in Biloxi at Edgewater Mall and that's not really a very reliable store when looking for different branches of electronica music.

Anyway, this CD is great and in my professional opinion, I give it a 9.0 on a scale of 10. If you enjoy trance or if you just want to hear great remixes of some popular artists, this CD is a must on your shopping list.

SSC soccer carries on winning tradition



Members of the SSC Varsity and Junior Varsity soccer teams crowd around Coach Kivlan.

By: Dawson McCall

Once again the SSC soccer team completed a very successful season, advancing to the state semi-finals and posting a record of 23-8. "Although we would have liked to advance further, I am very pleased with the team this year," said Coach Andrew Kivlan. "The guys played hard throughout the season and right up to the final buzzer. I am extremely proud of them and am looking forward to next season."

The SSC soccer team has enjoyed a great amount of success over the last decade. With two state championships and trips to the state playoffs every year, the Rocks have established themselves as one of the premier soccer programs in the state. This years Rocks were led by the play of experienced seniors such as John Rich, Ken Harshbarger, Ed Flores, and a host of talented underclassmen. Although the Rocks did not advance as far as they would have liked this year, the future looks bright once again for the Rock-A-Chaw soccer program.

Sailing 2000

By: Todd Geary and Garrett Mann

The first sailing practice for the 2000 season began on Valentine's Day. The team meets every Monday and Wednesday with the OLA team to practice sailing 420s at the Pass Christian Yacht Club. Mrs. Schmidt organizes and moderates the team's practices and races. The team is led by its senior skippers David Taylor, BJ Keel, and Emily Taylor. Sophomore Ben Pucket is up for accommodation of skipper but will have to compete in the February 26th elimination.

The first race of the season (March 11th) is the Mallary Qualifier during the Mardi Gras holidays at the Southern New Orleans Yacht Club. Qualifying in this race will send us to compete in the Mallary Cup (Long Beach, CA) during early May. The following afternoon (March 12th) will be the Baker Qualifier. The Baker Cup is being held in Norfolk, Virginia, during late May. Both of these competitions will be done in a team racing form with two boats on the course at a time.

Track and field holds promises for more championships

By: Dawson McCall

As the fall sports begin, there are few teams who have dominated a sport the way our track and field team has over the last decade. With seven division titles in the last eight years the Rock-A-Chaws have proven time and time again that they are the athletes to beat in division 7-4A. Returning for the Rock-A-Chaws are state qualifiers Christian Nemes (800 meter run) and Willie "Bubba" Golden (shot put) as well as a host of South State and Regional qualifiers. The Rocks also return 100 meter dash division champ Kris Cannon and two legs of the 4 by 100 meter and the 4 by 200 meter relay teams. Also returning for the Rocks are 400 meter sprinter T.J. McKeough and eighth grade miler Kyle Lewis, who promises to be a top runner in the division and state for the next five years.

The future looks good so far for this year's edition of the Rock-A-Chaw track and field team; however, I can't say the same for the rest of the division.

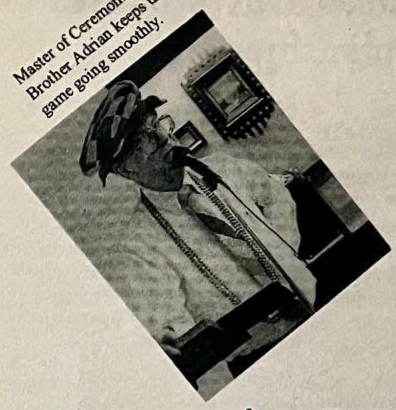
April 8th

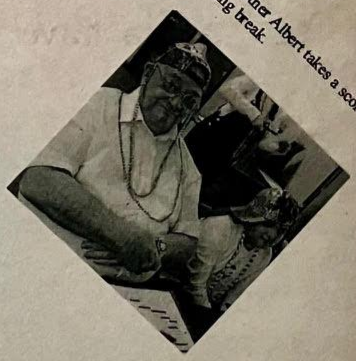
Day of Sailing lessons given by the SSC-OLA Sailing Team

$10 per peson for 1 hour lesson

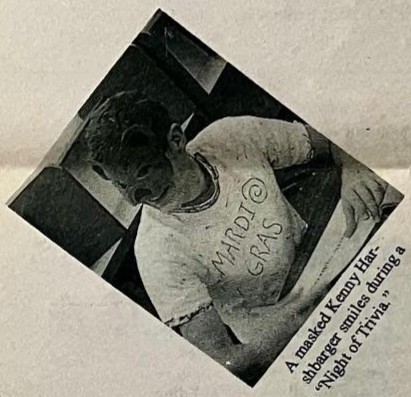
Held at Pass Christian Yacht Club 10:00-4:00

Contact Mrs. Schmidt or a member of the team for information


Master of Ceremonies Brother Adrian keeps the game going smoothly.


Brother Albert takes a scoring break.

A Night of Trivia



A masked Kenny Harshbarger smiles during a "Night of Trivia."

Mr. Genin has the right answer.

Mathcounts

By Andrew Waterman

The SSC Mathcounts team, directed by Bother Ronald Talbot, competed Saturday, February 28 at William Carey College in a district competition. Stanislaus placed second out of nine schools, that were also present at the competition. Seventh grader Parker Wishik placed seventh out of thirty-six students in the individual competition. Eighth grader Andrew Waterman placed fifth in the individual competition and will advance to state competition in Jackson.

Mathcounts is a nationally-based organization formed to spark interest in mathematics. Seventh and eight grade students can participate in these challenging and enriching competitions.

Quizlers

By Kenny Harshbarger

The SSC Quiz Bowl Team, directed by Mrs. Hamm had a very exciting year with a 9-15 record and a third place out of twelve teams. SSC also "bawled" its way to the "lightning round" two times. Its individual highlights included Dustin Tasker who finished fourth in total number of points while Mike Giardino followed with a seventh place finish in points. Although Dustin and Mike spearheaded SSC in the point category, Jordan Blaize, John Rich, Edward Flores, Mylon Labat, Neil Norton, Nimai Hedemark, and myself Ken Harshbarger saw action as well.

Does the media have the right?

By Chase Behlen and Blake Bilbo

There is a controversy that is often disputed in the world of journalism: should the media expose certain information to the public? The exposure of some information has cost the United States millions of dollars. One such incident happened during the Cold War. The following are two opposing viewpoints:

Knowledge is Power

By Patrick Clark

Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent. If one makes an investment, he should be able to keep up with its progress. When the government tries to protect the people by keeping them ignorant, the people are not really being protected; they are being made more vulnerable. Is it better to be ignorant and safe or knowledgeable and in danger? Knowledge may open one up for hurt, but it also allows one to conquer what he now knows.

Some government officials argue that the media harms the public, and in at least one case, the media wasted the taxpayers' dollars, millions of them. In 1973, the U.S. Navy began an expedition to recover a USSR sub, K-129, which had sunk to the floor of the Pacific Ocean. It was believed lost until American sonar technology located it. The U.S. Navy fed a line to the public about millionaire Howard Hughes's intention to build a huge ship (Glomar Explorer) to search the ocean floor for minerals, when secretly the ship's target was something other than minerals. When investigative reporters revealed the true mission of the Glomar Explorer, that of retrieving Soviet sub K-129, the ship became useless to the navy. It had been specifically designed at great cost to be able to lift the sub with a huge iron claw hidden within its hull. Now that the secret was out, the ship could no longer be used ostensibly to mine the ocean floor for minerals, and the Glomar Explorer was retired to the navy's ghost yard. If the U.S. Navy had not lied to the American people, there would not have been such a huge waste of money.

It is said that the best way to keep a people in control is to keep them ignorant, but that is not supposed to matter in a democracy, where we are all equals. Yet, the United States Government seems to think it is okay for the public to be dragged into dangerous missions, use taxpayers' money to fund these missions, and then not tell the public what is really going on. One more note: the K-129 was a nuclear submarine carrying nuclear missiles, one of which was ejected from the sub as it was raised from the depths by the iron claw. It descended toward the ocean floor minus a potentially devastating nuclear explosion and immediate Soviet awareness and reaction.

The Media Blew the Lid

By: Guy Van Slyke

I think that the media should respect the privacy or certain information if the exposure of this information could cause serious problems for United States citizens. Such was the case with the Glomar Explorer, which was built under the cover that it was a deep-sea mining ship; the public readily accepted this information. In all actuality, it was a state of the art lost submarine rescue ship. It was designed to retrieve the Soviet submarine K-129, which was equipped with three nuclear warheads and Soviet technological secrets that could have greatly advance the U. S.'s cause in the Cold War. The Glomar Explorer was also equipped with a huge claw the size of a football field, which would be used to pick the Soviet K-129 off the bottom of the ocean. It took two days for the claw to finally reach the ocean floor after first being placed in the waters of the Pacific. Three of the fingers of the claw briefly got stuck in the bottom of the ocean floor, but were still functional and the claw wrapped up the sub on the 2nd try. Halfway through the raising of the submarine, the three fingers of the claw that scrapped the ocean floor broke loose, and the sub started slipping. At this point a nuclear warhead slipped out and fell to the ocean floor; it did not explode. The Soviet sub then broke up and only about 1/3 of its remained in the claw. The claw was finally raised to the ship, and neither warheads nor technological secrets were discovered on the remaining 1/3…only dead Soviets. Though this mission was a complete and total failure, the U.S. military at least took solace in the fact that they now had the technology to retrieve lost subs from the ocean floor. That was until the media blew the lid off the story and informed the public about what the Glomar Explorer really was. The Glomar Explorer is now currently collecting cobwebs and has been doing so for the past 25 years. If it is seen at sea, it would be quite obvious what we were trying to do, retrieve a submarine. So as a result of the media not respecting the privacy of certain situations, the protection and safety of the American public and an amazing technological advance has been sacrificed.

How can we let the government keep us ignorant when what they do always affects us, or is there just some information better left untold? Readers, what do you think?

Super Bowl review

By Peyton Cuevas

This year's Super Bowl was one of the few Super Bowls which was not a one -sided game. The St. Louis Rams and the Tennessee Titans were the two teams that battled it out to the very last seconds of the game. The Titans have come a long way during this season and so have the Rams. No one really expected to see these two teams end up in the championship game. The score stayed tight throughout the game. The Rams seemed to always be on top, and they were on top at the last second of the game. The Titans did put a valiant effort in all the way to the last second of the game, but the Rams ended up on top 23 to 16.

The Titans have had many great come backs throughout their season. One of the greatest plays of the year was performed by the Titans in their first playoff game against the Buffalo Bills. The Rams have also had a great, unexpected season of wins. This is what makes Super Bowls interesting, when underdog teams overcome what is said to be impossible, and this is what both of these teams have done.

The Titans claim they will be back next year to give it another shot. They seem to be a very determined team. Both of these teams were very well coached throughout the season. Dick Vermeil brought the Rams, who were ranked low at the beginning of the season, all the way to the Super Bowl, and he retired on a high note for his coaching career. At the beginning of the season Titans coach Jeff Fisher was told if he did not have a winning season he would be fired; he gave a "super" response to that ultimatum. Now all we need is a miracle for our beloved Saints.

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The Rock-A-Chaw Staff would also like to thank Brother Charles Schilling for providing many of the photos used in this edition.

A spiritual day in the sun

Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Carol Gordon and some of her students enjoy the sunshine during their retreat.

By Garrett Mann

On Friday, February 18th, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes attended retreats which were times of sharing, reflecting, listening, and learning. Throw in a few human pyramids, and the day was more than complete. Human pyramids? Well, after serious reflection time when many students shared their answers to questions about prayer and its role in our lives, pent up energies needed expression time also. For the eighth grade students, the human pyramids were especially entertaining outlets of expression.

Mr. Brock Rock seemed totally in charge of this pyramid undertaking. The grass outside OLG Community Center proved the perfect matting for students who climbed atop each other in attempts to form the perfect pyramid. This, of course, was not the total feat: the top participant in the pyramid then had to ingest an apple while maintaining his balance. This was not an easy task given the fact that the student's arms were engaged in holding on for dear life, and therefore, his apple had to be fed to him by those below. Needless to say it was a bit messy, but all seemed to enjoy the experience. Happily, there were no tumbles to the ground even though many of the pyramids' foundations looked shaky. Marc Belizaire successfully gobbled his apple in the shortest time, and he and his pyramid claimed the prize for first place.

Later eighth grade students meandered to the SSC pier where a thoughtful prayer was spoken by Mr. Rock. The mood was meditative and students basked in the sunshine and uplifting sound of the spiritual moment presented over the water, as they listened to the story of Jesus telling the fishermen to go out again and cast their nets.

The day had begun with an interesting talk by Mr. Ryan Carlin about religious tolerance, and students later shared their reactions to the talk in their small groups. Overall, there was much listening time, talk time, and fun time. After a lunch of pizza and chips, students played ultimate volleyball and Frisbee on the sand. The day closed for the eighth grade with a mass at Our Lady of the Gulf Church. Father Peter Mockler said mass and added his own reflections about truly listening to others.

Here are some reflections about this retreat day:

"More than what I expected."-James Surgi 6th Grade

"First time I ate milk and cookies in a tree."-Chris D'Silva 6th Grade

"We flew kites and drew."-Daniel Mortimer 6th Grade

"It was a lot of fun and free time." "I want to do it again."-Chris Hoobler 6th Grade

"We found crabs."-Bobby Deitz 6th Grade

"I would like to do it again."-David New 6th Grade

Quotes from the 7th and 8th grades

"I felt that the retreat helped me to become closer to God, made new friends and became more open-minded." Michael Iskander 8th grade

"The retreat was very nice. I was in a spiritual mood and it let me hear and see some of the other sides of people." Andrew Walsh 8th grade

"I think the mass was a very good and relaxing end to the day." Scott Wilder 8th grade

"The retreat provided me with the time to get to know God in a greater sense and become a closer friend with Him through prayer and meditation." Tyler Gallagher 8th grade

"The best thing about the retreat was the meditation because it brought me closer to God and calmed me down after a hard week of school." Marshall Ticer 8th grade

"What was nice about the retreat was when our group went into the church and had a moment of solitude while we meditated." Jake Johnson 8th grade

"My meditation was really awesome that day." Zach Delaney 8th grade

"We got off from school and the regular hectic schedule to take a break, to relax." Mason Hester 8th grade

" The retreat was good for me when I felt tranquil on the pier listening to the waves." Miller Gordon 8th grade

"After the activities (beach, apple-eating contest, etc) we relaxed a little and I thought about how nice it was to have done these things as a group and come closer to God." Dustin Broekman 8th grade

"The most enjoyable part of the retreat was when we did the meditation on the beach." Michael Peacock 8th grade

"It was relaxing, calm, and fun because I was with my friends and closer to God." Hunter Landgrave 8th grade

" It was great fun" Brett Bentz 7th grade

" We had a good time." Christian Walter 7th grade

Riding the Wave

Trey Schorr

This article is another update on 9th grade English. The Wave is a book by Todd Strasser. It is based on an actual event that happened in the late 1960s. A high school history teacher decided to hold a classroom experiment to show his students what Germany was like during World War II.

He begins by telling them that if they follow him, they will get money and power. The experiment has almost a brainwashing effect on the students. The students are going around the school giving the "Wave salute," and shouting the mottoes: "Strength through Discipline, Strength through Community, Strength through Action."

The school newspaper publishes a special issue exposing all of the truths about the Wave. People have been beaten up, students are being bullied into joining, and the football team is still losing. The teacher finally realizes what he has created and announces a special Wave meeting. During the course of this meeting, he declares that they all "would have made good Nazis." He teaches them never to follow a leader blindly and to always think for themselves.

Now that the Wave has been ridden, we have moved on to poetry. The classes are learning about Wordsworth, Blake, and Shakespeare, and even writing their own poems. After poetry, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde will be studied.

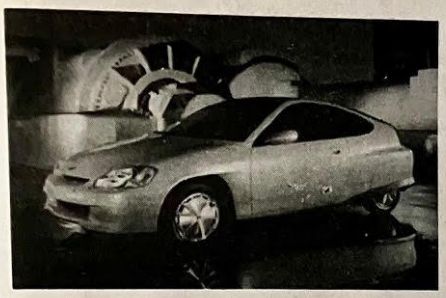
Art class

By Brett Hode

Art probably the single most neglected part of modern curriculum. It is the one class that builds both maturity and develops your appreciation for the Fine Arts. The art program at SSC is one of the better ones on the coast. There aren't very many students who take Art classes after the one credit required to graduate, but the ones who do continue to learn to be proficient at drawing.

Many people enjoy drawing but few do it properly. You should start with a light rough sketch, using only geometric forms. Then slowly you want to build upon your image by shading first lightly, then building on medium and dark gradients. Then you must add more and more detail into your drawing. Intro to Fine Art classes recently learned this while they completed their first work, an animal sketch. They are currently working on the human head, which some consider to be much harder. Personally it's far easier. More detail and facial expressions give your drawing the proper expression. There is always the problem of shading the pictures to just the right shades of gray or black. That isn't the main problem: the true difficulties come from trying to make the portrait appear three dimensional by making it look like you were staring the person in the face. Facial features are always bothersome to the rookie artist; there are always some details you leave out that keep your portrait from achieving perfection, but the more you work at it, the better you will become.

An insight in the future



By Patrick Clark

The Insight from Honda is the first gasoline-electric hybrid to be sold in the United States. Honda's Integrated Motor Assist (IMA), is what makes this hybrid system possible. This IMA consists of an all new 1.0 liter, 3-cylinder engine with an ultra-thin electric motor. The Insight does get most of its power from a regular VTEC engine, so if it runs out of gas it can not run purely on electric power. There is no external power supply needed for recharging the batteries. The batteries are charged with an innovative braking system. Energy from the forward momentum is captured during braking; this energy is then used to recharge the batteries. Yet perhaps the most impressive feature of the Insight is that it gets 70 miles per gallon of gasoline (EPA highway estimate). Therefore, one may be able to drive 700 miles between fill-ups. Thanks to this IMA system the Insight has met California's Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle standard. This is a hard standard to meet, and the Insight has met it, and is one of the world's cleanest cars.

Beneath this car's sleek, futuristic design is an all-aluminum body and frame, which were based on the Acura NSX sports car. This lightweight frame and body makes a car that weighs well under 2,000 pounds.

The Insight not only meets federal safety standards, but it exceeds these safety standards. It offers dual airbags, an anti-lock braking system (ABS), steel door beams, 3-point seat belts, and a front crash zone. The Insight also meets the 2003 safety standards for side impact and head-injury protection.

The Insight hit dealerships on December 15, and is being sold for less than $19,000. Yet, the Insight with factory-installed automatic climate control will be priced at $20,080. Honda expects that most of their sales will come from "engineers" who are interested in the new technology. The next group of buyers will probably be "young, single, urban drivers." Honda then estimates that their third groups of buyers will be multi-car families who are attracted to the Insight's impressive high fuel efficiency. So, one could say that Honda is very confident in the success of their new "electric car."

Featured creatures

By: Keith Crawford

In the last edition I talked of the rare and beautiful, white tiger, white lion, and the amur leopard. In this article I will talk of the cheetah, the gray wolf, and the great white. If you haven't guessed, I am choosing the rare or almost extinct animals because these are in danger of disappearing forever. It is my hope that these articles will help to raise awareness for these animals.

The cheetah is a graceful and beautiful cat. Known to run at speeds of seventy miles per hour in short bursts, its small light bone structure and long strides make it built for speed. The tail of the cheetah acts as a rudder making it easy for quick turns. The cheetah is yellow with black spots as most people know, but it has a tear mark as well, which may or may not reduce the sun's glare underneath its eye. The oldest known fossil of a cheetah is four million years old and was found in North America, but during the last ice age the cheetahs on North America died out. The word cheetah comes from a Hindu word meaning, "spotted one."

Unlike the name implies, the gray wolf does not have to be gray but can also be black or white. Wolves run in packs, the head being the Alpha male, and the Beta being the lowest of the pack. The Beta is often picked on by the other members of the pack and can only move up if another cub takes his place. The adult wolves have forty-two teeth and can weigh up to 110 lbs. The females can have four to six pups in each litter, but the mortality rate is high at 40% to 60% dying. Average pack size totals twelve to fifteen in Minnesota, and this rate is higher in Alaska and Canada. On average they move at five miles per hour, but can go up to thirty-five miles per hour in a chase. In America there is an average of 2,385 wolves in the wild, their main threats being deforestation and hunting by humans. Wolves are commonly shown as the enemies, but it is not so, and as we learn more, our views of them change.

The great white shark, probably the best know water predator, is always considered the most dangerous. Its streamline body design allows quick movement in the water. The arrowhead shaped teeth are excellent for biting through bones and meat. But, the shark does not hold on to its prey like many people would think. It bites them rather quickly and then waits for them to bleed to death. The reason for this is that if the prey were to struggle, then it would break the teeth. The largest of the sharks recorded was a specimen caught off the of Long Island, and it weighed 4,500 lbs! It was seventeen and a half feet long. Though the shark is known as a man killer, it has proven that divers bear a resemblance to the shark's natural prey, seals, and the sharks attack people for that reason.

A criminal trip

By David Billiot

On Thursday, February 24, the Introduction to the Mystery Novel class visited the New Orleans Crime Laboratory to take a better look at the real life processes that follow along with what the class has been studying. The material being covered up until the time of the trip dealt with analysis of crimes, crime scenes, fingerprinting, handwriting interpretation, and other forms of recognizing and understanding criminals.

With the aide of police officials and criminal investigators the class observed how many procedures are actually done in real life. First, we were told about the fingerprint records that were kept on file and how they organized them. This crime lab is where all the documents are kept for the entire state of Louisiana. Whenever there is an investigation and any information needed involving fingerprints, gun traces, and other facts the state comes to them.

In our tour of the building we were shown some of the advanced technology that is used today. In one room we were shown a gun tank which is basically a large, rectangular box filled with water that is used for shooting a gun into so that the bullet can be easily retrieved and can help in tracing a certain bullet back to a certain gun.

Another room was filled with computer equipment that can search through a national database in order to locate someone's fingerprints. We were also shown many ways to recover a person's prints from different types of surfaces and environments. We used dusting, magnetic inking, ultraviolet light, and several other procedures to get what is needed. Other things that we were shown were different types of guns that can be hidden almost anywhere: in a motorcycle's throttle handle, a cell phone, and even a .22 caliber gun concealed in a beeper.

The trip was very interesting and educational and I feel that more classes should be able to take these trips so that we can see how the things we are learning in school are really used in life. If I had the chance to go again, I know I would.

AMUSEMENT

FUN STUFF

1.) HOW DO YOU SPELL "HARD WATER" IN JUST THREE LETTERS???

2.) WHAT WORD STARTS WITH AN "E" AN USUALLY CONTAINS ONE LETTER???

3.) WHERE CAN TODAY MEET YESTERDAY???

1.) ICE

2.) Letter

3.) A Museum.